

LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD
9643 BROOKLINE AVENUE, SUITE 121
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70809-1443
(225) 925-6291

IN THE MATTER OF:)
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ROBERT E. JONES, P.E., P.L.S.)
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RESPONDENT)
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CASE NO.: 2011-14

Received
JUN 07 2011

By LAPELS Enforcement

CONSENT ORDER

The Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board [hereinafter the "Board"], by and through its Executive Director, pursuant to authorization by the Board, and Robert E. Jones, P.E., P.L.S. [hereinafter "Respondent"], hereby agree to the following:

At all times material hereto, Respondent was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineer, number PE-10435, and as a professional land surveyor, number PLS-2269.

At all times material hereto, Jones Environmental, Inc. was licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional engineering firm, number EF - 3326; however, its license was in an expired status from April 1, 2010 through August 15, 2010. At all times material hereto, Jones Environmental, Inc. was also licensed in the State of Louisiana as a professional land surveying firm, number VF - 547; however, its license has been in an expired status since April 1, 2010. At all times material hereto, Respondent was the supervising professional of Jones Environmental, Inc.

An investigation was opened based upon the Board's receipt of an Application to Renew Expired Firm License, in which Jones Environmental, Inc. admitted that it practiced or offered to practice engineering in the State of Louisiana during which time its Louisiana professional engineering firm license was expired. The investigation disclosed that between April 1, 2010 and August 15, 2010 Jones Environmental, Inc. (a) admittedly provided and/or offered to provide engineering services on three projects in Louisiana and (b) maintained a website which (i) stated that the firm was based in Shreveport, Louisiana and maintained remote offices in Bossier City, Lafayette and Monroe, Louisiana and (ii) described its staff as including "professional engineers", "engineers" and a "senior engineer".

La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9) and (16) prohibit licensees from practicing and/or offering to practice engineering in the State of Louisiana with an expired license. La. 37:698(A)(12) prohibits licensees from aiding or assisting another person in violating any laws and/or rules of the Board. La. R.S. 37:698(H) permits the Board to take disciplinary action against persons who violate La. R.S. 37:698(A)(12) upon a finding of guilt following the preferral of charges, notice and hearing and a majority vote of its entire membership authorized to participate in the proceeding. La. R.S. 37:698(A)(9), (12) and (16) and La. R.S. 37:698(H) were in effect at all times material hereto.

It is undisputed that (a) Jones Environmental, Inc.'s license to practice and/or offer to practice engineering in Louisiana was expired from April 1, 2010 through August 15, 2010, (b) during this time period Jones Environmental, Inc. practiced and/or offered to practice engineering in Louisiana and (c) Respondent aided or assisted Jones Environmental, Inc. in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board.

By letter dated May 23, 2011, the Board gave notice to Respondent that it was considering the preferral of charges against Respondent on the grounds that he may have violated La. R.S. 37:698(A)(12), relative to aiding or assisting another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board.

Wishing to dispense with the need for further disciplinary action and to conclude the instant proceeding without further delay and expense, for the purpose of this proceeding only, Respondent and the Board do hereby enter into this Consent Order, in which Respondent of his own free will consents to the issuance of a Consent Order by the Board, wherein Respondent agrees to (a) pay a fine of one hundred twenty-five (\$125.00) dollars; (b) pay administrative costs of two-hundred sixty-eight and 81/100 (\$268.81) dollars; (c) successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Laws and Rules Quiz; (d) successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Professionalism and Ethics Quiz; and (e) the publishing of the Consent Order on the Board's website and a summary of this matter in the Board's official journal, the Louisiana Engineer and Surveyor Journal, and the reporting of this matter to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), identifying Respondent by name.

Respondent admits to violations of the referenced laws and/or rules regarding the aiding or assisting of another person in violating the laws and/or rules of the Board. Respondent acknowledges awareness of said laws and/or rules and states that he will comply with all applicable laws and rules henceforth. Respondent has been advised of his right to be represented by counsel before the Board and/or to appear at any hearing personally or by counsel and present witnesses and evidence in his own behalf, and he hereby waives this right and his right to appeal; and he states affirmatively that he has been afforded all administrative remedies due him under the law.

Therefore, in consideration of the foregoing and by his signing this Consent Order, Respondent does hereby waive his right to a hearing before the Board, to the presenting of evidence and witnesses in his behalf, to Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this case, and to judicial review of this Consent Order.

Respondent hereby represents (a) that he fully understands the meaning and intent of this Consent Order, including but not limited to its final and binding effect; (b) that he has voluntarily entered into this Consent Order and that no other promise or agreement of any kind has been made to or with him by any person whatsoever to cause the execution of this instrument; and (c) that the sanctions set forth in this Consent Order do not prevent the Board from taking further disciplinary or enforcement action against Respondent on matters not specifically addressed in this Consent Order.

WHEREFORE, the Louisiana Professional Engineering and Land Surveying Board and Respondent agree that:

1. Respondent shall pay a fine of one hundred twenty-five (\$125.00) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

2. Respondent shall pay administrative costs of two-hundred sixty-eight and 81/100 (\$268.81) dollars, which shall be tendered to the Board by certified check payable to the Board, due upon the signing of this Consent Order; and

3. Respondent shall successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Laws and Rules Quiz with a score of 90% or higher and return it to the Board within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Consent Order; and

4. Respondent shall successfully complete the Board's online Louisiana Professionalism and Ethics Quiz with a score of 90% or higher and return it to the Board within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Consent Order; and

5. This Consent Order shall be published on the Board's website and a summary of this matter shall be printed in the official journal of the Board, the Louisiana Engineer and Surveyor Journal, and reported to the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES), identifying Respondent by name; and

6. This Consent Order shall not become effective unless and until it is accepted and signed by and on behalf of the Board. Should the Board not accept and sign this Consent Order, it is agreed that presentation of this matter to the Board shall not prejudice the Board or any of its members from further participation, consideration or resolution of any further proceedings herein.

LOUISIANA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING
AND LAND SURVEYING BOARD

DATED 7/25/11

BY: Donna D. Sentell
DONNA D. SENTELL, Executive Director

DATED 6-6-11

Robert E. Jones, PE, PLS
ROBERT E. JONES, P.E., P.L.S., Respondent

Witnesses to the signature of
Robert E. Jones, P.E., P.L.S.

B.L. Laird
Print Name: B.L. LAIRD

William D. Whited
Print Name: William D. Whited